

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification by replacing the paragraph in the REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION section at page 1, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/680,567, entitled "VIRTUAL NETWORK ENVIRONMENT", filed October 5, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,766,371, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial number 60/157,727 filed October 5, 1999, the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial number 60/157,728 filed October 5, 1999, the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial number 60/157,729 filed October 5, 1999, the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial number 60/157,833 filed October 5, 1999, and the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial number 60/157,834 filed October 5, 1999. These applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.